

## Syracuse City School District – 2007-2008 Contract for Excellence

### Contract Plan

All interventions or initiatives will be implemented consistently across the District since there are struggling students, including students with disabilities (SWDs) and English language learners (ELLs), in all of our schools, with the majority of schools identified at various stages improvement status from Schools in Need of Improvement Year 1 to SURR schools.

All schools are required to develop a School Improvement Plan (SIP) with a diverse stakeholders group. All SIPs are created using pertinent student achievement data. All school administrators and teacher leaders have been involved in school reform initiatives and have included the initiatives identified in the Contract for Excellence in their school improvement plans. Decisions on what programs and practices to implement District-wide were based on student achievement data and research in similar urban districts with large numbers of high need students.

To address the need of more time on task, the District will increase the number of Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teachers at the elementary level. These teachers will work with individuals and small groups to differentiate instruction for each student as identified by assessment data. The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program will provide struggling students with tutorials as well as teach students organization skills through the use of Cornell note taking and binders to organize materials for each subject. The school year will be lengthened for other students through the District's inclusive summer school program which operates full day sessions for 6 weeks at the elementary and intermediate levels. In addition to this initiative, the District is offering summer school for all students pre-k -12 grade using grant funding.

Recognizing the need for schools in each quadrant to work together to articulate proven instructional practices and communicate student information between schools, the District has proved funding to each quadrant to meet before and/or after school and during the summer to provide professional development in areas of need as identified by the quadrant planning team and to support initiatives in the quadrant leading to improved teaching and learning, and transitions. In the Nottingham Quadrant, Edward Smith and Hurlbut W. Smith Elementary Schools will be converted from K-6 schools to K-8 schools by adding a 7<sup>th</sup> grade in September.

To ensure oversight and ongoing communication between the District's Special Education Department and Information and Technology Division, and the IEP Direct vendor, the District will hire an IEP Direct facilitator who is familiar with the program and its use in urban districts.

The Acuity interval formative assessment system will be used District-wide in ELA and math in grades 3-8 throughout the school year. Results from Acuity assessments will be used to drive instruction and professional development.

A new high school, Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central will open in September 2007 with 125 9<sup>th</sup> graders. A team of diverse stakeholders including business and community partners have met monthly for more than a year to develop the programming for this new school. In addition, for the first time, all high school students will be assigned to a career themed Smaller Learning Academy this September to ensure increased rigor, improved relationships between students and teachers, and relevance to future career aspirations.

To improve the math instruction, a new math textbook/program was adopted in June 2007 for implementation in September 2007. The selection of the textbook/program was done on online with each teacher having the opportunity to participate in the selection ensuring ownership of the results.

The District continues to support its pre-k programs over and above State pre-k funding by using District funds to support some full day pre-k programs and special education related services for preschoolers with disabilities.